

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cylinder head gasket comprising:
  - a body, being generally flat and having a first surface, a second surface, and at least one cylinder hole therethrough;
  - an encapsulant generally coating the first surface, the second surface and a perimeter of the at least one cylinder hole; and
  - a light colored pigment intermixed with the encapsulant to thereby create a light color encapsulant.
2. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 wherein the encapsulant is an epoxy primer.
3. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 2 wherein the light colored pigment is made from one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide.
4. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 2 wherein the light colored pigment is made from pigment blue 15 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide, and the light colored pigment is mixed with the encapsulant in an amount that will create a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B color and brightness rating system.
5. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 2 wherein the light colored pigment is made from a pigment green 7 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide, and the light colored pigment is mixed with the encapsulant in an amount that will create a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B\* color and brightness rating system.

6. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 further including a generally translucent topcoat that generally coats the encapsulant.
7. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 6 wherein the topcoat is made of silicone.
8. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 wherein the encapsulant layer intermixed with the light color pigment has a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B color and brightness rating system.
9. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 wherein the light colored pigment is made from one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide, and with the cylinder head gasket further including a generally translucent topcoat that generally coats the encapsulant.
10. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 wherein the light colored pigment is made from pigment blue 15 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide, and the light colored pigment is mixed with the encapsulant in an amount that will create a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B color and brightness rating system; and with the cylinder head gasket further including a generally translucent topcoat that generally coats the encapsulant.
11. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 wherein the light colored pigment is made from a pigment green 7 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide, and the light colored pigment is mixed with the encapsulant in an amount that will create a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B color and brightness rating system; and with the cylinder head gasket further including a generally translucent topcoat that generally coats the encapsulant.

12. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 wherein the encapsulant has a thickness of less than approximately 0.001 inch.

13. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 1 further including an armor assembled to the body adjacent to the at least one cylinder hold; and a generally translucent topcoat generally coating the encapsulant and the armor.

14. A cylinder head gasket comprising:  
a body, being generally flat and having a first surface and a second surface;  
an encapsulant generally coating the first surface and the second surface; and  
a light colored pigment intermixed with the encapsulant to thereby create a light color encapsulant that has a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B color and brightness rating system.

15. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 14 further including a generally translucent topcoat that generally coats the encapsulant.

16. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 14 wherein the light colored pigment is made from one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide.

17. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 14 wherein the light colored pigment is made from pigment blue 15 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide.

18. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 14 wherein the light colored pigment is made from a pigment green 7 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide.

19. The cylinder head gasket of Claim 14 further including a silicone topcoat that generally coats the encapsulant.

20. A method of producing a cylinder head gasket comprising the steps of:  
mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant to thereby create a light colored encapsulant that has a brightness above about 75 on a CIE L\*A\*B color and brightness rating system; and  
applying the encapsulant to coat substantially all of a first surface and a second surface of a gasket body.

21. The method of Claim 20 further including the step of applying a generally translucent topcoat over generally all of the encapsulant.

22. The method of Claim 21 wherein the step of applying a generally translucent topcoat is further defined by employing a silicone as the generally translucent topcoat.

23. The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant is further defined by employing an epoxy primer as the encapsulant.

24. The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant is further defined by employing one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide as the light colored pigment.

25. The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant is further defined by employing a pigment blue 15 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide as the light colored pigment.

26. The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant is further defined by employing a pigment green 7 mixed with one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide as the light colored pigment.

27. The method of Claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

stamping at least one hold through a gasket body having a first surface and a second surface prior to applying the encapsulant;

assembling an armor to the gasket body after applying the encapsulant; and

applying a generally translucent topcoat to substantially all of the first surface, the second surface and the armor after assembling the armor to the gasket body.

28. The method of Claim 27 wherein the step of mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant is further defined by employing one of a titanium dioxide and a zinc oxide as the light colored pigment.

29. The method of Claim 28 wherein the step of mixing a light colored pigment with an encapsulant is further defined by employing an epoxy primer as the encapsulant.

30. The method of Claim 29 wherein the step of applying a generally translucent topcoat is further defined by employing a silicone as the generally translucent topcoat.